IN BLUE AND WHITE

the official match magazine of the South Melbourne Soccer Club

FREE

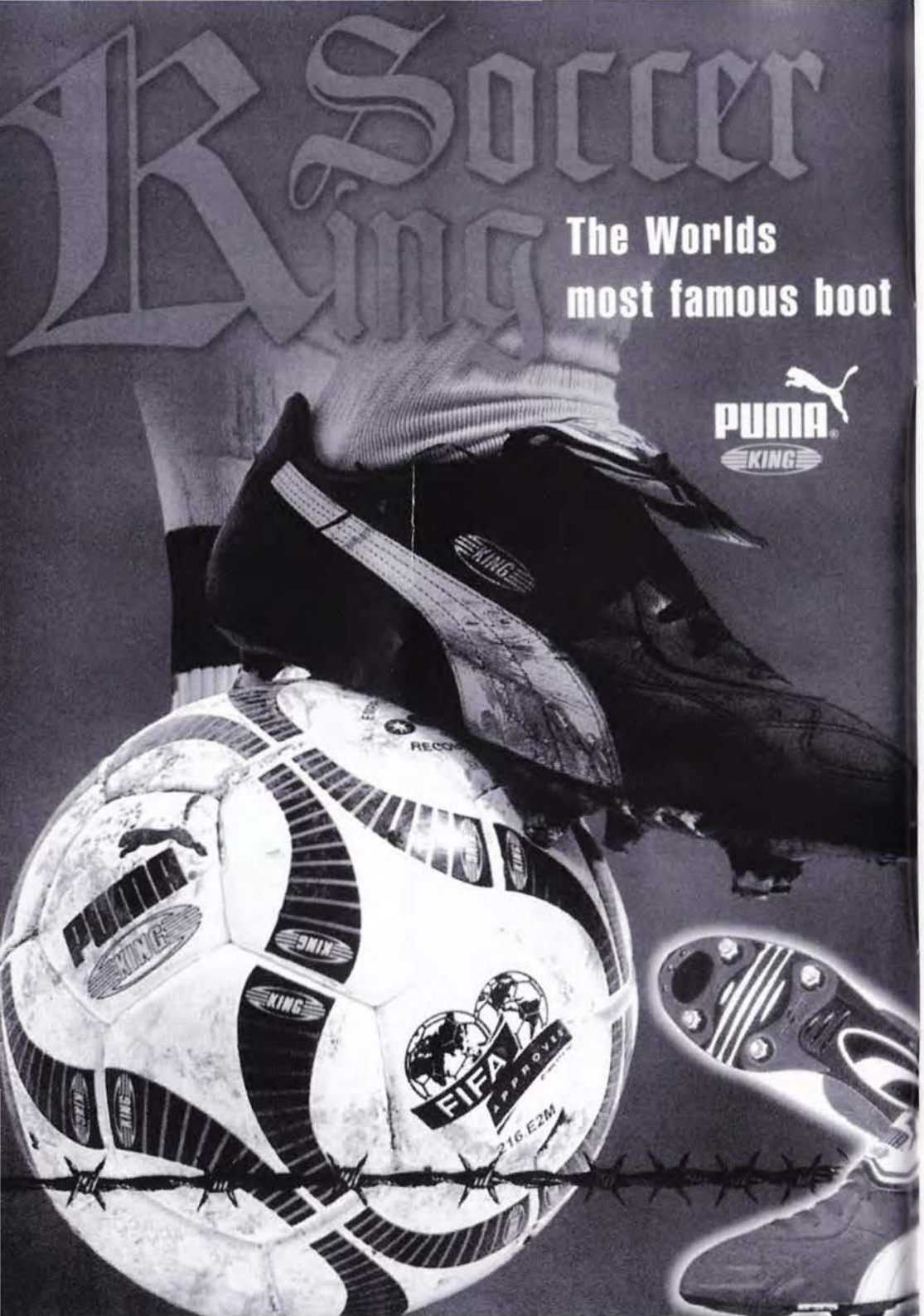
2000/2001 Season Opening Edition

Cover Story

Spreading the Word/
Communication Matters

Round 3 Carlton, Sunday, October 29
Round 5 Melbourne Knights, Sunday, November 11

season 2000-2001



SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2000/2001 National Soccer League season and in particular to the new season at Bob Jane Stadium for all South Melbourne supporters.

After the mixed season that the Club experienced last year, particularly the disappointing NSL season, the Board has enacted a number of changes both on and off the field during the off-season.

On field, we have seen a change in the coaching structure, with former South Melbourne champion Mike Petersen taking over the reins from the Club's most successful coach Ange Postecoglou, who has moved onto higher honours as the Australian under 17's and 20's coach.

Along with Mike as Head Coach comes former long-time Socceroo goalkeeper Jeff Olver who has been appointed Director of Coaching and Head Coach of the new Youth Academy, replacing long-time servant John Kennedy. I wish both Mike and Jeff well for the forthcoming season.

With the changes to the coaching structure came changes to the entire football operations. All the players are now full-time with training sessions taking place on most days, with some days having two sessions per day. With the move into full-time professionalism many changes have also occurred with the support staff.

We welcome the following people to the Club;

- Darren Welsh Fitness Coordinator (recently with the Richmond FC)
- Andrew Theoklitos Team Operations Manager
- Chris Rozis Property Steward
- Mary Toomey & Mark Rosewarne Physiotherapists (NExTT Performance Health)
- Emma Porter Muscle Therapist
- Les Beasley Trainer

All these people, along with existing staff members Dr George Haralambakis and Joe Nagy, will give the players all the off-field support to ensure a smooth and professional operation which will enable the players to hopefully maximise their performances and provide the success that the Club is striving to achieve this season.

The club has also engaged the services of former South Melbourne player and Fifa accredited agent George Christopoulos and MVP

"the Club's most successful coach Ange Postecoglou has moved onto higher honours as the Australian under 17's and 20's coach."

Management to institute and manage a new Youth Academy program and oversee the football operations including the management of player transfers, both to and from the Club.

George's expertise and qualifications in sports management, and in particular in soccer, is also being utilised in other areas of the Club's operations, particularly in restructuring the marketing and sponsorship programs.

The Youth Academy program, with Jeff Olver as the Director of Coaching, will see a totally new program in place, with increased professional coaching, including specialist coaching, weight training, dietitian education, media training, educational assistance, as well as a mentor program which aligns each player with a senior player as his mentor.

The Academy will also see two teams operating, an Academy team and a Colts team which will be based at Keilor Park and known as the South Melbourne Eagles coached by George Katsakis. Jeff in his role will oversee the coaching programs for both teams as well as developing a coaching program for the junior club. His expertise, along with the support staff including Michael Pitchner, Ralph Barba, Michelle Mew, Marc Leitch, as well as the above-mentioned support staff from the senior team, will provide a program unmatched in this country. I wish them well.

It would be remiss of me if I did not recognise the contributions of the people who have given so much time, effort and support in placing this Club at the forefront of Australian soccer and who have left the Club in their official capacities, but remain as friends and supporters of the Club;

1984 Championship player and long-time assistant to Ange Postecoglou, Carl Halford, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and whose knowledge and support to Ange, the players and the administration was second to none. Former South Melbourne goalkeeper John Kennedy whose service as the Youth and goalkeeping coach along with his support team of David Poole and Rino Di Giocchino, took the Youth team to within a whisker of playing off in the National Youth Team Grand Final last season.

Notice

1. **Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted.**
2. **All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the final game.**
3. **Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.**
4. **The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares is strictly prohibited.**

Physiotherapists Les Gelis and Jim Dimitropoulos, and fitness coordinator David Darbyshire for all their work over the years in helping the players in fitness and injury recuperation. Gear Steward Kostas Myriskos who ruled over the property room and equipment as if his life depended upon it. His service over many years will not be forgotten.

Changes have also occurred away from the football department with Andrew Dye, Peter Kartsidimas, Leo Athanasakis and Jeff Lambadaridis joining the Board and Club legend Jim Armstrong resigning. I wish these new members all the good luck and I look forward to their contributions throughout the season. To Jim, I wish him all the best and we are very appreciative of him continuing to serve the Club in his role as Visiting Team Liaison Officer.

In the administration, the Club has appointed Mrs Koula Zouros as the Accounts Manager and recently engaged the services of consultant Mr Dennis Hatcher who will assist the Club in reviewing its administrative operations, developing business and marketing plans, and assisting in the Club's submission to Soccer Australia to be admitted in the revamped National Soccer League in season 2001/2002.

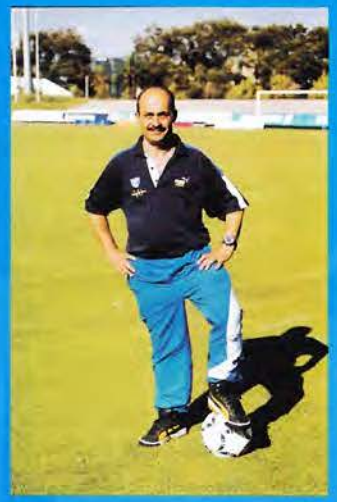
Dennis comes to the Club with impeccable credentials having recently completing a four year term with the Northern Territory Institute of Sport as Chief Executive Officer, which he was initially charged with setting up from scratch. Prior to this, Dennis worked for current Australian Cricket Board CEO Mr Mal Speed at Strategic Sports and Recreation. His experience in sport and strategic planning will most valuable in this crucial time of the Club's history. I welcome both Dennis and Koula and wish them well.

One area that the Club is looking to improve upon is the actual infrastructure for the administration offices. Currently the offices are too small and cramped for the staff to operate in, and with more staff, both administration and football been employed over the past six months, there is not enough room for everyone to work in. As there is an urgent need to improve the office facilities the Club has employed the services of a builder and architect to move the process along as quick as possible.

In the coming months we hope to make more and more exciting announcements regarding the direction and future of our great club, which will cement our position as Australia's Super Club.

Good luck to the team and to all of you for the 2000/2001 season.

George Vasilopoulos
President



" former Gear Steward Kostas Myriskos ruled over the property room and equipment, as if his life depended upon it. His service over many years will not be forgotten."

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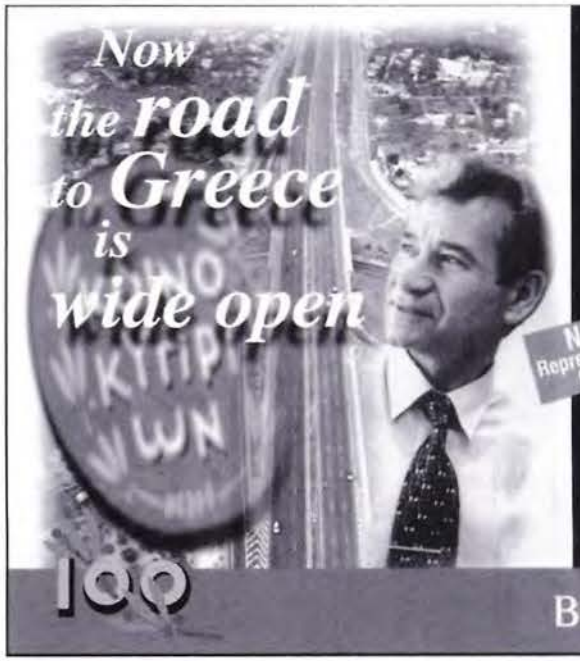

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Spreading The Word/Communication Matters

Andrew Dye (a South Melbourne Director) writes on communications issues

Over the years, it has been suggested that the Committee steering South Melbourne through the choppy NSL waters has not always been as communicative as it could be. As someone who only joined the Board earlier this year, I'm not about to fuel discussions on what has gone on in the past.

Instead, I'd like to start by emphasising that the current Board is genuinely committed to ensuring that South Melbourne Members and supporters receive as much information as it's possible (and legitimate) to give about matters that affect their club. After all, we're all Members, and the Board Members are merely the elected representatives, so it's our duty to keep you as up to date as we can.

Given the resources available, and the attitude to the game held by many outside the soccer community, it's not always as easy as it might seem to spread the word. We can issue Press Releases until the cows come home, but there's no guarantee that they will be printed. Equally, there are times when supporters are anxious to hear news, but we can't put out a release saying "there is no news".

That said, there are several initiatives that we have set in motion to assist the process of keeping supporters informed.

The Website www.southmelbournesc.com.au

As anyone who has visited the Club website in recent months will have noticed, the volume and frequency of news posted there is a tremendous improvement on previous years. Members of the Club staff update the site on virtually a daily basis, with news, photos and media releases.

Fixtures and details of forthcoming functions and events are also available, along with player profiles and much more. It really is worth visiting on a regular basis, to keep up with what's happening at Bob Jane Stadium. In addition, there are quite a few new features planned, so keep an eye out for those as the season progresses.

We recognise that not everyone has Internet access, but it's already in around 40% of Australian households, with further numbers having access through work, so it's an extremely effective way of communicating.

Supporters' Forums 5th October, 14th December & 22nd February

Recognising that the AGM has historically been the only public forum where supporters could get more information about how the club operates, the Club will be hosting three Supporters' Forums during the course of the season.

We can't claim that it's a totally original idea, as Forums like this have been running in the UK for several years, but we felt that it was an excellent way of furthering communications between the Club and supporters.

The first took place in the Champions' Sports Bar at the start of October, and was advertised via the website and notices at the Adelaide City Family Day. Unfortunately, the timing of the pre-season membership mailing meant that we were unable to include details of the Forum, but a healthy number of interested supporters turned out to find out more.

The panel for the first night comprised Mike Petersen (coach), Paul Trimboli (captain), Nick Maikousis (Marketing Director & Vice President) and Peter Kakalis (Director), who fielded questions from supporters for around an hour and a half.

Subjects discussed included finance, sponsorship, the move to full-time status, media coverage, membership numbers, expectations for the season, the constitution and much more.

Whilst everything couldn't be covered during the session, there was a general consensus that it had been an extremely positive evening. Questions were answered honestly and in detail, and both panel and supporters left with a greater understanding of issues facing the Club.

Further Forums will be held at 8pm on Thursday 14th December and Thursday 22nd February, also at the Champions' Sports Bar. The composition of the panel will vary, to allow supporters to hear from a variety of Club representatives, but it should always be an interesting evening.

All supporters are welcome, so please put the dates in your diary and make a point of coming along.

Other Media

As alluded to earlier, it's not always easy to get the South Melbourne message into all the media. Advertising with commercial outlets is always expensive, and there is a premium associated with large ratings or circulation that often reduces their cost effectiveness in terms of reaching those who might be interested in soccer. Up against the financial clout of the AFL, we're minnows, so our budget has to be effectively targeted.

During the Olympic Football at the MCG, our mobile billboard (which you can see at today's game) toured the roads around the ground before every session, promoting the Club and memberships (leafleting in and around the 'G was prohibited by SOCOG, which is why you won't have seen this type of activity).

With 330,000 soccer fans attending matches over the fortnight, you can be sure that a fair few will have seen the billboard, which was also in service at the pre-season Tynan-Eyre games.

Over the course of the coming season, we will be using the match day programme to keep you posted on what's happening, so make a note to pick up a copy each time. Those of you who are Members will also receive four copies of the In Blue & White Newsletter, containing further information. And there are other activities being planned to ensure that the average fan hears as much about South Melbourne as we can manage.

So, it's not always easy, we don't have the biggest budget in the world, and we can't reach every supporter on every occasion. But rest assured that communications are a major priority on our agenda all we request is a bit of patience now and again, when it's not possible to get the news out as quickly as we'd like.

In the meantime, let's focus our communications on supporting the team on the pitch for today's game and enjoy what we hope will be a successful season.

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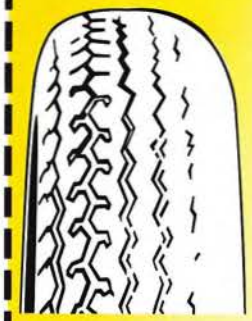

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3. Fausto de Amicis
4. Mehmet Durakovic
5. Robert Liparoti
6. David Clarkson
7. Steve Panopoulos
8. Vaughan Coveny
9. Paul Trimboli
10. Con Boutsianis
11. John Anastasiadis
12. Richie Alagich
13. Andy Vlahos
14. Vas Kalogerakos
15. Goran Lozanovski
17. Rade Culibrk
18. Elias Demourtzidis
19. Patrick Kisnorbo
20. Chris Jones GK

Coach: Mike Petersen

Assistant Coach: Jeff Olver

2000-2001 Season Fixture

R	Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Venue
1	13.10.00	Fri	Adelaide City Force	8:00pm	Hindmarsh Stad
2	21.10.00	Sat	Perth Glory	7:00pm	Perth Oval
3	29.10.00	Sun	Carlton	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
4	04.11.00	Sat	Marconi Stallions	7:00pm	Marconi Stad
5	12.11.00	Sun	Melbourne Knights	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
6	19.11.00	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
7	26.11.00	Sun	Parramatta Power	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
8	02.12.00	Sat	Canberra Cosmos	6:30pm	Bruce Stad
9	10.12.00	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
10	15.12.00	Fri	Newcastle United	7:30pm	Marathon Stad
11	23.12.00	Sat	Sydney United	5:00pm	SU Sports Ctr
12	30.12.00	Sat	Sydney Olympic	7:30pm	Bob Jane Stad
13	06.01.01	Sat	Eastern Pride	7:00pm	Mobil Park
14	14.01.01	Sun	Auckland Kingz	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
15	19.01.01	Fri	Northern Spirit	7:30pm	Nth Sydney Oval
16	28.01.01	Sun	Adelaide City Force	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
17	04.02.01	Sun	Perth Glory	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
18	11.02.01	Sun	Carlton	TBA	TBA
19	18.02.01	Sun	Marconi Stallions	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
20	25.02.01	Sun	Melbourne Knights	6:00pm	Knights Stad
21	04.03.01	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	6:00pm	Suncorp Stad
22	11.03.01	Sun	Parramatta Power	4:00pm	Parramatta Stad
23	18.03.01	Sun	Canberra Cosmos	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
24	23.03.01	Fri	Wollongong Wolves	7:30pm	WIN Stad
25	01.04.01	Sun	Newcastle United	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
26	08.04.01	Sun	Sydney United	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
27	16.04.01	Mon	Sydney Olympic	6:30pm	Belmore Sports Gnd
28	22.04.01	Sun	Eastern Pride	5:00pm	Bob Jane Stad
29	25.04.01	Wed	Auckland Kingz	7:30pm	Ericsson Stad
30	29.04.01	Sun	Northern Spirit	3:00pm	Bob Jane Stad

THE SEASON IS BACK

The long wait is finally over and we can get back into our normal weekend routine of soccer, soccer and more soccer. With South missing out on the finals last year, the pre-season seemed to go forever and to make matters worse the team were drawn to play their first two games interstate.

It was more than an interesting pre-season though, with the most anticipated news being, who will replace Ange Postecoglou as coach. Many had tipped Wollongong's Championship winning coach Nick Theodorokopoulos, but after a lot of umming and erring by the former Wolves coach, he decided to stick it out at Wollongong, so we thought (more on that latter). That left the board with the tough decision between two former greats of the club, Michael Petersen and Allan Davidson.

For varying reasons, Mickey P got the nod and he was set the immediate and difficult task of rebuilding the squad that had in recent times won back to back Championships and played in the Club World Championships. Despite this great record, last season's tenth place finish was evidence that it was time for some on field changes.

Jim Tsekenis, Nick Orlic, Con Blatsis, Michael Curcija, Adrian Cuzzupe, Anthony Magnacca and Mustafa Mustafa were replaced from the first team squad with former South Championship players, Michael Petkovic, Con Boutsianis and Mehmet Durakovic as well as new boys Vas Kalogeracos, Zeljko Susa and promoted for the Youth Team squad was exciting defender Patrick Kisnorbo.

Many are claiming the squad is a bit of a "Dad's Army", but with a combined twenty eight Championship medals won by the squad of twenty players, this is surely one of the most experienced and successful group of players ever seen at any NSL club.

With the team now fully professional, including a full time fitness coach and the inclusion of the well overdue South Melbourne Soccer Academy run by former Socceroo great Jeff Olver, the future of South Melbourne has never looked so promising.

Which leaves me with a simple question, how silly does Nick Theodorokopoulos look now? Not only did he turn down the chance in a lifetime to coach Australia's most famous and successful club, but he has now been left without a club after a falling out at Wollongong. History will tell us that Ange Postecoglou was the number two choice, behind Zoran Matic, to coach South in 1996 and went on to lead the club to two Championships and to Brazil 2000. With the experience of this current squad and with a great youth system in place, there is no reason why Mickey P couldn't do the same.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Who missed the final penalty in the 1991 grand final that gave South Melbourne victory over the Melbourne Knights?

2. Who scored South Melbourne's only goal at the Club World Championships in Rio earlier this year?

3. Which former youth player scored in South Melbourne's 3-1 Tynan-Eyre Cup victory over Melbourne Knights?

4. In what year did South Melbourne last meet the Melbourne Knights in a Finals match?

5. What was the score of the above encounter?

6. How many current South Melbourne players have played in a NSL Grand Final against South Melbourne? Name the player.

7. In what year did South Melbourne last meet Carlton in a Finals match?

Note: Answers to Trivia Questions on page 24

SOUTH MELBOURNE S.C. 2000/2001 PLAYER PROFILES

PAUL TRIMBOLI

Position:	Striker
Born:	25.2.69
Height:	173 cm
Weight::	72 kg
Last club:	Sunshine GC
Nickname:	Trimmers
Shirt number:	9

DAVID CLARKSON

Position:	Midfielder
Born:	1.2.68
Height:	176 cm
Weight:	70 kg
Last club:	Happy Valley (HK)
Nickname:	Clarky
Shirt number:	6

STEVE PANOPOULOS

Position:	Midfielder
Born:	23.6.75
Height:	169 cm
Weight::	68 kg
Last club:	Oakleigh (VIS)
Nickname:	Pana
Shirt number:	7

FAUSTO DE AMICIS

Position:	Defender
Born:	26.6.68
Height:	170 cm
Weight:	65 kg
Last club:	Melbourne Knights
Nickname:	
Shirt number:	3

VAUGHAN COVENY

Position:	Striker
Born:	13.12.71
Height:	188 cm
Weight::	84 kg
Last club:	Wollongong
Nickname:	Kiwi
Shirt number:	8

STEVE IOSIFIDIS

Position:	Defender
Born:	28.12.73
Height:	184 cm
Weight:	75 kg
Last club:	Heidelberg UTD
Nickname:	Yosa
Shirt number:	2

GORAN LOZANOVSKI

Position:	Midfielder
Born:	11.1.74
Height:	180 cm
Weight:	88 kg
Last club:	Collingwood
Nickname:	Loza
Shirt number:	15

ROBERT LIPAROTI

Position:	Defender
Born:	2.4.78
Height:	193 cm
Weight:	89 kg
Last club:	Bulleen
Nickname:	Lipa
Shirt number:	5

CHRIS JONES

Position:	Goalkeeper
Born:	10.7.75
Height:	188 cm
Weight:	88 kg
Last club:	Karingal United
Nickname:	Jonesy
Shirt number:	20

JOHN ANASTASIADIS

Position:	Striker
Born:	13.8.68
Height:	179 cm
Weight:	78 kg
Last club:	PAOK (Greece)
Nickname:	
Shirt number:	11

ANDY VLAHOS

Position:	Midfielder / Striker
Born:	20.4.76
Height:	171 cm
Weight:	70 kg
Last club:	Panathinaikos (Greece)
Nickname:	
Shirt number:	13

RICHIE ALAGICH

Position:	Midfielder
Born:	30.10.73
Height:	178 cm
Weight:	74 kg
Last club:	Adelaide Sharks
Nickname:	Gich
Shirt number:	12

RADE CULIBRK

Position:	Defender
Born:	19.7.82
Height:	175 cm
Weight:	72 kg
Last club:	Springvale
Nickname:	Culi
Shirt number:	17

ELIAS DEMOURTZIDIS

Position:	Striker
Born:	25-6-81
Height:	182 cm
Weight:	79 kg
Last club:	Adelaide Sharks
Nickname:	El
Shirt number:	18

NEW BOYS ON THE BLOCK

MICHAEL PETKOVIC

Position:	Goalkeeper
NSL Games:	105
NSL Goals:	0
Nickname:	'Petka'
Shirt No.:	1

CON BOUTSIANIS

Position:	Striker
NSL Games:	212
NSL Goals:	79
Nickname:	'Boutsi'
Shirt No.:	10

PATRICK KISNORBO

Position:	Defender
NSL Games:	0
NSL Goals:	0
Nickname:	'Patty'
Shirt No.:	19

MEHMET DURAKOVIC

Position:	Defender
NSL Games:	270
NSL Goals:	8
Nickname:	'Ugsie'
Shirt No.:	4

ZELJKO SUSA

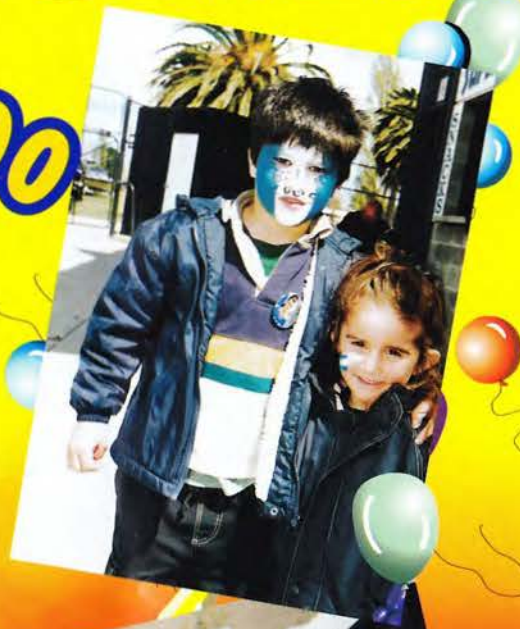
Position:	Midfielder
NSL Games:	68
NSL Goals:	8
Nickname:	'Seuse'
Shirt No.:	16

VAS KALOGERAKOS

Position:	Striker
NSL Games:	59
NSL Goals:	22
Nickname:	Vas
Shirt No.:	14

SOUTH MELBOURNE SC FAMILY DAY 2000

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2000



South Melbourne enjoyed their most successful family day in history when approximately 1,500 spectators witnessed a comfortable 1-0 victory over Adelaide City. Early birds were treated to a free sausage sizzle for lunch, with kids also enjoying the jumping castle, face painting, balloons and the free 45 minute soccer clinic conducted by senior South Melbourne players.

Amongst all this, people were also treated to a guest appearance by three Triple M Rock Patrols giving away a variety of goodies as well as a close up view of the much publicised and eye-catching South Melbourne Soccer Club Mobile Billboard which was a hot spot for budding photographers.

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SPOT THE BALL COMPETITION

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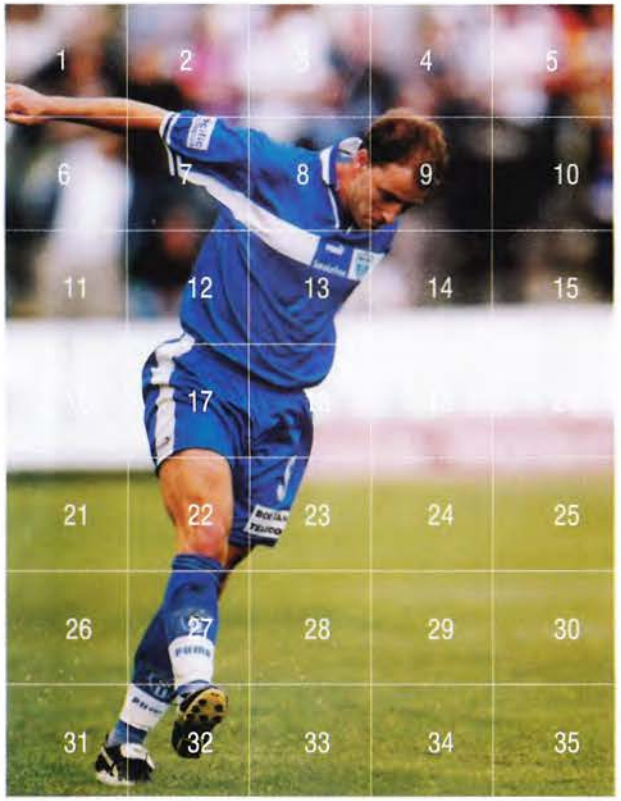
To start off the season we have an easy spot the ball competition, where you can win your very own SMSC autographed soccer ball.

To win, simply fill in your details, and state which box, you think, the soccer ball is in.

GOOD LUCK!



SEND ENTRIES TO:

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NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

POSTCODE: ..... PHONE: .....

ANSWER: [ ]

The winner will receive a FREE soccer ball signed by the South Melbourne Squad.

ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2000

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BP Hume Petroleum (coach Michael Petersen)

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COACH'S REPORT

After an unusually long pre-season, as well as two successive trips on the road, I must admit it feels good to be finally playing at home in front of our own supporters. Last weeks result in Perth was disappointing as we dominated much of the game, however, our opening day win in Adelaide means our season has got off to a reasonable start.

Obviously, I was delighted to pick up a win on my NSL coaching debut in Adelaide, but more importantly, it was terrific to see the team gel together and produce the goods by defeating Adelaide at Hindmarsh Stadium for the first time in five years.

Our next two home games against Carlton and Melbourne Knights will be among the most anticipated this year. Melbourne derby clashes have a reputation of producing exciting encounters, and with both sides getting off to unbeaten starts, I'm certain that these will be no exception.

On a final note, I'd like to finish by urging you to sign up as members and show your support to the team. It promises to be an exciting year and we are going to need record support both in membership and crowd numbers, to achieve our goals. Hope you enjoy the game!

Mike Petersen
Senior Coach

Answers to Trivia Question on Page 13

1. *Ivan Kelic*
2. *John Anastasiadis*
3. *Patrick Kisnorbo*
4. *1997*
5. *4-1 (a), 3-0 (h)*
6. *One. Andy Vlahos*
7. *1998*

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SOUTH MELBOURNE JUNIOR SC

The 2000 season for the South Melbourne Juniors has recently come to a close, and the Juniors Committee is already at work preparing for the 2001 season.

There are EXCITING times ahead for SOUTH MELBOURNE JUNIORS so give your child the opportunity to be part of the South Melbourne success story.

NEW PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED
ALL AGE GROUPS-
FROM UNDER 8 THROUGH TO UNDER 16

*

NEW COACHES REQUIRED
MIN LEVEL 1.

For further details regarding pre-season training under the guidance of our qualified coaching staff call Jeff Lambadaridis (Vice President) mob: 0419-391939 or Alex Georgakis (Juniors Coach) mob: 0410-5474163

SOUTH MELBOURNE WOMEN SC

South Melbourne has two teams playing in the women's leagues of the VSF.

South's presence in the women's leagues has a long and proud history. The club has always fielded a team in the competition's highest Division, and usually also having another team one Division lower.

Amongst the trophies displayed in the South Melbourne Sportsbar are those won by the Club's women's teams.

In the 2000 season, South Melbourne was the only club to have women's teams in both the Premier Division and Division One.

South Melbourne's fielding of women's teams is an indication of the Club's commitment to developing football and providing oportunity for footballers across the full range of VSF and NSL competition - from young players in the junior ranks of both boys' and girls' leagues, to adult men and women at the highest levels.

The Women's Leagues have a winter season, and so the 2000 season is concluded. South's Premier Division team finished fourth, and the Division One team finished seventh. There were no Finals series held this season because of the need to finish the season early for the Olympic Games.

Interested women and girls are invited to play with the South Melbourne women's teams. Until the pre-season training sessions for the 2001 season begins, more informal weekly games are planned in the Albert Park area. Prospective women players are welcome to participate.

For further details, contact John Hughes (telephone number) Alan Clark (9637-8561 bh; 9429-8193 ah), or Mary Pirchan (9364-1673 Home).

OUR VISITORS - CARLTON

SMSC v Carlton
Sunday, October 29, 2000 5.00pm

Today we welcome Carlton Soccer Club and their coach Stuart Munro to Bob Jane Stadium. Carlton will alternate their home fixtures between Bob Jane Stadium, Olympic Park and Epping, in Melbourne's Northern Suburbs. The Blues played their inaugural home game at Bob Jane against Wollongong last week.

Carlton created history in 1997/98 by becoming the only team to date to make the grand final in their inaugural season in the NSL, losing 2-1 to South Melbourne. Since their inception in 1997/98, a keen rivalry has developed between South Melbourne and Carlton, overtaking our rivalry with the Knights as Melbourne's most passionately-contested and eagerly-awaited derby. In a relatively short time span, the derby has served up several memorable games and many unforgettable moments. Few Melbourne soccer fans were too concerned when last years' fixture list ensured the clubs met four times. In the first meeting at BJS, Michael Curcija gave South a 1-0 lead before two late 'Stabber' Marth goals gave Carlton victory. South gained revenge by winning the second fixture 1-0 with a goal from Paul Trimboli. The derby action moved to Olympic Park in April where on a cold and wet Friday night, South Melbourne put a major dent in Carlton's finals aspirations by winning an exhilarating game 5-3. In a game that rivaled the 4-4 classic of the previous season, Carlton took a 2-1 and 3-2 lead with goals by Thompson and Colosimo before South went on an amazing scoring spree. Curcija scored his second to equalise before a De Amicis exocet from outside the box swerved viciously over Dean Anastasiadis. John Anastasiadis completed the scoring in the final minute. In the last fixture of the season, Carlton gained revenge by winning 2-0 with goals from Archie Thompson and David Terminello. That win cemented the Blues top-six place and they eventually finished the season in third place. After comfortably knocking out Marconi in the elimination final, a Steve Horvat header overcame Sydney Olympic in sudden-death extra-time in the minor semi-final. John Markovski gave Carlton an early lead in their preliminary final in Wollongong before the Wolves struck back to win 2-1.

Carlton's squad has several changes from the side that finished third last season. Stuart Slater has returned to England while Mike Conroy may move to Eastern Pride. Josh Kennedy has moved to Europe while Olyroo Simon Colosimo is in England where a transfer to a Premier League club is imminent. Archie Thompson however has returned to Carlton after a trial at Austrian champions Sturm Graz. Striker Alex Moreira has joined Northern Spirit. On the plus side, Robbie Middleby (Kingz FC) and Ivo de Jesus (Cosmos) have joined the club.

Nevertheless, Carlton will again be challenging for a spot in the top-six. Former Scottish international Dave McPherson settled well last season and is the only one of the club's three-man British contingent who remains. With the likes of Steve Horvat and Sean Douglas the team has a solid defensive look. Former Knights championship winners Andrew Marth and Lubo Lapsansky are in midfield along with ex-Striker Andrew Packer who was impressive last season on the flank. Much of the goalscoring responsibility will fall to Archie Thompson. The club's bankers might not have been too happy but coach Stuart Munro was relieved that Thompson returned from his trial in Austria. He showed his value by netting twice in Carlton's 2-1 opening day win over Cosmos in Canberra.

CARLTON LINE-UP

1. Dean Anastasiadis
2. Dave McPherson
3. Craig Deans
4. Simon Colosimo
5. Sean Douglas
6. Andrew Marth
7. Robbie Middleby
8. Mark Atkinson
9. Joe Tricarico
10. Lubo Lapsansky
11. Archie Thompson
12. Mike Conroy
13. Steve Martin
14. John Markovski
15. Con Anthopoulos
16. David Terminello
17. Ange Motsiopoulos
18. Steve Horvat
19. Daniel Vasilevski
20. Steve Tilovski
21. Andrew Packer
23. Colin Azzopardi

Coach: Stuart Munro

NSL TABLE After Round 2

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
SYDNEY UNITED	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
MARCONI	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
CARLTON	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
PERTH GLORY	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
STH MELBOURNE	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
BRISBANE STRIKERS	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
NZ KINGZ	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
WOLLONGONG	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
EASTERN PRIDE	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
NORTHERN SPIRIT	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
NEWCASTLE UTD	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
CANBERRA COSMOS	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
PARRAMATTA	2	0	0	2	1	2	0
ADELAIDE CITY	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

ROUND 1 RESULTS

Parramatta Power vs Marconi Stallions	0 - 2
Adelaide City Force vs South Melbourne	**1 - 3**
Brisbane Strikers vs Melbourne Knights	1 - 2
Wollongong Wolves vs Perth Glory	1 - 1
Eastern Pride vs Newcastle United	1 - 1
Canberra Cosmos vs Carlton	1 - 2
Sydney United vs Northern Spirit	2 - 1
Sydney Olympic vs Kingz FC	2 - 0

ROUND 2 RESULTS

Northern Spirit v Sydney Olympic	0 : 0
Adelaide City v Sydney United	0 : 2
Newcastle Utd v Brisbane Strikers	0 : 2
Kingz v Eastern Pride	2 : 1
Perth Glory v South Melbourne	**1 : 0**
Marconi Stallions v Canberra Cosmos	1 : 0
Melbourne Knights v Parramatta Power	2 : 1
Carlton v Wollongong Wolves	2 : 2

SOUTH MELBOURNE PLAYER STATISTICS (as at 13.10.2000)

Player	No.	Position	D.O.B.	SMSC Games	SMSC Goals	Career Games	Career Goals
Michael Petkovic	1	Goalkeeper	18-Jul-75	105	0	105	0
Steve Iosifidis	2	Defender	28-Dec-73	104	0	120	0
Fausto De Amicis	3	Defender	26-Jun-68	116	1	229	5
Mehmet Durakovic	4	Defender	13-Oct-65	138	5	270	8
Robert Liparoti	5	Defender	02-Apr-78	54	1	54	1
David Clarkson	6	Midfielder	01-Feb-68	101	6	184	16
Steve Panopoulos	7	Midfielder	23-Jun-75	160	22	160	22
Vaughan Coveny	8	Striker	13-Dec-71	147	42	213	61
Paul Trimboli	9	Striker	13-Aug-68	350	97	372	101
Con Boutsianis	10	Midfielder	27-Dec-71	143	47	212	79
John Anastasiadis	11	Striker	13-Aug-68	80	29	102	29
Richie Alagich	12	Midfielder	30-Oct-73	12	0	129	4
Andy Vlahos	13	Striker	20-Apr-76	9	2	109	28
Vas Kalogerakos	14	Striker	21-Mar-75	0	0	59	22
Goran Lozanovski	15	Midfielder	11-Jan-74	68	12	189	20
Zeljko Susa	16	Midfielder	13-Jul-78	0	0	68	8
Rade Culibrk	17	Defender	19-Jul-82	2	0	2	0
Elias Demourtzidis	18	Striker	25-Jun-81	1	0	8	2
Patrick Kisnorbo	19	Defender	24-Mar-81	0	0	0	0
Chris Jones	20	Goalkeeper	10-Jul-75	26	0	26	0

ROUND 3 MATCHES

Friday, 27 October

Parramatta Power v Brisbane Strikers
Kingz v Newcastle Utd

Saturday, 28 October

Canberra Cosmos v Melbourne Knights
Eastern Pride v Northern Spirit
Wollongong Wolves v Marconi Stallions

Sunday, 29 October

South Melbourne v Carlton
Sydney United v Perth Glory
Sydney Olympic v Adelaide City

SMSC v Melbourne Knights
Sunday, November 11, 2000 5.00pm

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS LINE-UP

1. Martin John
3. Rody Vargas
4. Saso Ognenovski
5. Jason Vukadin (Captain)
6. Joey Rajher
7. Joe Kozic
8. Dragi Nastevski
9. Joel Porter
10. Ivan Zelic
12. Michael Bosevski
14. Paul Magdic
15. Ransford Banini
16. Alex Kiratzoglou
17. Ivan Razov
18. Andy Vargas
19. Anthony Pelikan
20. Lupce Acevski
21. Zoltan Zold
22. Toto Da Costa
24. Harry Matkovic
25. Adrian Cervinski

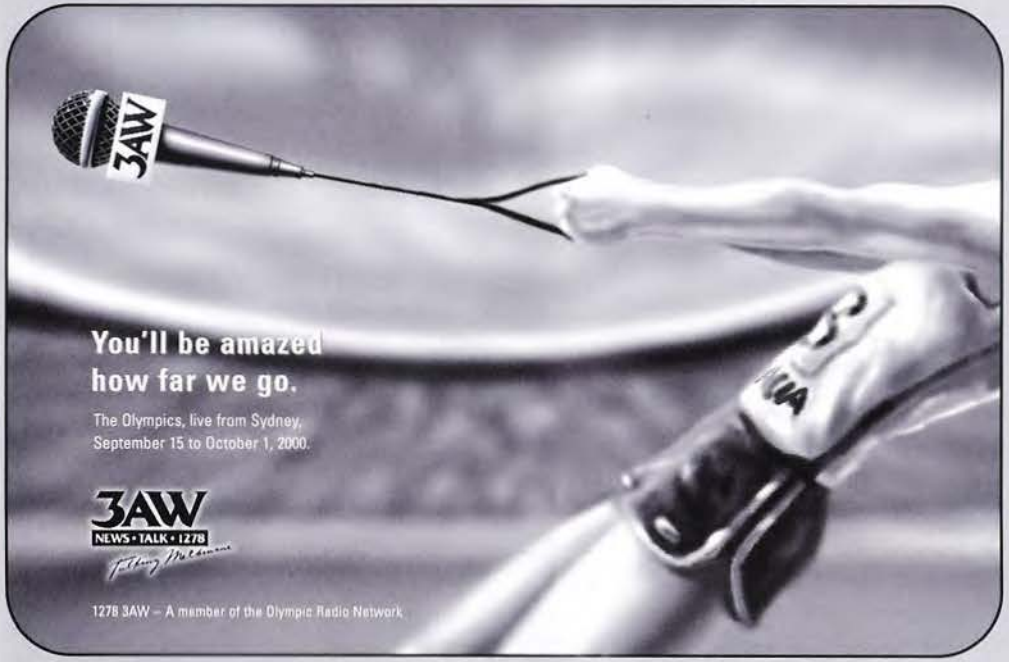
Coach - Vlado Vanis

Today we welcome the Melbourne Knights to Bob Jane Stadium and their coach Vlado Vanis. For the first-half of this decade, the Melbourne Knights were the benchmark in Australian soccer, winning championships in 1994/95 and 1995/96 as well as losing grand finals in 1991, 1992 and 1994. The rivalry between the two clubs during this era was intense and led to quite memorable clashes. The 1991 Grand Final (where a very late Joe Palatsides equaliser took the game into extra-time before South triumphed on penalties) and the 1995 Preliminary final (when a superb Mark Viduka hat-trick allowed the Knights to beat South 3-2 on the way to claiming their first title) are just two of the games that still stick in the memory. Since those heady days, the Knights have struggled. A comprehensive defeat to South Melbourne in the 1996/97 Elimination final was their last experience of finals football. The star-studded teams of the recent past have inevitably broken up and players have moved on to more lucrative careers in Australia and Europe.

Yet under Vlado Vanis the club is showing the first sign that it may be on the way back. The Knights finished twelfth in 1999/2000, only two points behind South Melbourne. Captain Ante Kovacevic was a shock departure to Adelaide Force while Zeljko Susa made the journey across the city to join South Melbourne. Paul Urlovic has joined the Kingz, Toyin Abbas has returned to Nigeria, Mark Silic has moved to Sydney United and Ivan Kelic has been released. In their place, the Knights have invested heavily in young local talent, including nineteen-year old, 6'2 striker Xhezair Suleimani (South Dandenong), Preston Lions' Saso Ognenovski, Antun Kovacic and midfielder Joe Kozic. Angolan striker Tota Da Costa, ex-Adelaide Sharks striker Joel Porter, Ivan Zelic and Andy Vargas have also moved to Somers Street. An indication of the club's emphasis on youth is the appointment of 22-year-old Jason Vukadin as skipper.

Much of the responsibility will fall on the clubs' more experienced players such as Martin John (who has established himself as the number one 'keeper), dual vice-captains Alex Kiratzoglou and Dragi Nastevski and crowd favorites Adrian Cervinski and Ransford Bannini. The new-look Knights had an encouraging start to the season with a 2-1 win over the Strikers in Brisbane. Vargas and Suleimani were the scorers.

In the clubs' fixtures last season, South Melbourne won 3-0 at BJS with two goals by Vaughn Coveny and one by John Anastasiadis. In the return, South Melbourne won 4-0, with Curcija (2), Clarkson and Anastasiadis the scorers.



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